

Changes Made to September 2011 TIG update

The WIC Technical Implementation Guide (TIG) is updated for September 2011. Through the efforts of the WIC stakeholders over the past several months we've addressed issues and greatly enhanced the document. It is an update of the 10/22/2010 version and incorporates the following changes:

- 1) Resolution of the open issues from the Online Summit meeting held in February 2011 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and subsequent conference calls held through May of this year.
- 2) Smart Card V4 Development changes, addressing file envelope naming and file processing conventions). The Smart Card States have worked to standardize file handling for exchanges with food retail vendors in planned enhancements to their EBT hosts that will incorporate updates adopted with the 2008 release of X9.93 part 2. Each State will adopt these changes on their own time schedule.
- 3) Smart Card Split Tender and Benefit Reversal proposed changes.
- 4) Addition of the complete message and file formats from the X9.93 Parts 1 and 2 standards.
- 5) Addition and expansion of data element directories to summarize data element usage in messages and records.
- 6) Addition of WIC State Benefit file layouts in preparation for addressing remote benefit loads.

The update expands on the detail provided for WIC EBT processing by including:

- the complete Data Element Directories for both messages (6.1) and files (10.2)
The Data Element Directories provide a ready reference to all the data elements and sub-elements used. The Directory identifies the message or file in which each data element appears and notes on their use. The use of data elements in messages and files has been standardized and differences among processors resolved. The document reflects the agreed upon changes, for example, in reversal messaging.
- the complete message layouts for Online EBT processing (Section 8) and the complete file layouts for Online and Smart Card EBT processing (Section 11). The previous version of the document only pointed out how WIC EBT requirements differed from the X9.93 standards. By providing complete message and file layouts those differences can be seen in context and implementation specifications can be compared more readily.
- expanded data element code tables including those for error identifier codes (A.1), message reason codes (A.5), and recommended literal values for the unit of measure (A.8).
We think use of a common set of code values for data elements is beneficial to future development rather than have each State come up with their own list.

The issues identified from existing and developing implementations in February 2010 at an online workgroup meeting in Michigan have been addressed and the resolutions incorporated into the document, including eliminating differences in message formats (Section 8) and the handling of discounts (8.3.2).

Information has been added to provide new features and standardize existing ones:

- File naming conventions and processing rules (Section 10)
These changes were developed and recommended by the WIC Smart Card State Agencies. A copy of the source document, *X9.93-2:2008 (V4) File Features, Structural Content and Data Mapping for Development consideration, Version 2.1, March 2011* is available upon request.
- WIC State Benefit file (Section 11.6)
This file appeared in X9.93-2:2008. The WIC Smart Card State Agencies are preparing to provide remote benefit updates to smart cards utilizing the file format and have suggested enhancements.
- WIC Smart Card Split Tender and Reversal processing (Section 12.3 and 12.4)
The prior version of the document prohibited split tender and reversal processing. Proposals from the WIC Smart Card State Agencies to allow both of these features have been incorporated subject to final FNS approval.